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Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the sixty-first session (24 March 2016 and 13-24 March 2017)

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Note

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Summary

At its sixty-first session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/3, considered as its priority theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". It considered as its review theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its fifty-eighth session. In addition, the Commission discussed, as a focus area, "Empowerment of indigenous women".

Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/6, the session included a ministerial segment comprised of four ministerial round tables, one interactive dialogue among ministers on the priority theme, one interactive dialogue on accelerating implementation of commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and an interactive dialogue on the focus area. The session also included two interactive expert panel discussions and a general discussion. The Commission considered its review theme through a series of presentations, made on a voluntary basis, by representatives of 11 Member States from various regions on lessons learned, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its fifty-eighth session, which were followed by comments and an interactive dialogue among representatives of 21 Member States.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme. They reaffirm existing commitments, set out areas and issues requiring attention in conjunction with the priority theme and a series of actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders in the following seven areas:

(a) Strengthening normative and legal frameworks;

(b) Strengthening education, training and skills development;

(c) Implementing economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment;

(d) Addressing the growing informality of work and mobility of women workers;

(e) Managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment;

(f) Strengthening the collective voice of women and women's leadership and decision-making;

(g) Strengthening the role of the private sector in women's economic empowerment.

The Commission reaffirmed its central role in supporting efforts to achieve women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work and called upon the United Nations system and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to support those efforts.

The work of the Commission on the priority theme and its agreed conclusions constitute an input to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

In addition, the Commission adopted the following:

(a) A resolution entitled "Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace";

(b) By a recorded vote, a resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", for action by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) A decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission", for action by the Council.

The Commission further decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

[12 April 2017]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	7
	A. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women	7
	B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council	25
	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	25
	C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	30
	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission	30
	D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	32
	Resolution 61/1. Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace	32
	Decision 61/101. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women	35
II.	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	37
III.	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	38
	A. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives	42
	B. Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work	43
	C. Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls	45
	D. Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women	47
	E. Action taken by the Commission	48
IV.	Communications concerning the status of women	51
V.	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	55
VI.	Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission	56
VII.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session	57
VIII.	Organization of the session	58
	A. Opening and duration of the session	58
	B. Attendance	38

C. Election of officers 58
D. Agenda and organization of work 58
E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women 59
F. Documentation 59

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and Council resolution 2015/6 of 31 July 2015:

Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.[3]

2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[6] as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[7] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[8] provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls throughout their life cycle, including women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

3. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work that are critical for women's economic empowerment, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/2010/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; and ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

4. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and to women's economic empowerment.

5. The Commission also reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development, and in its Programme of Action[10] and the outcome documents of its reviews.

6. The Commission emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship among women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It acknowledges the important contribution of women and girls to sustainable development and reiterates that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all.

7. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

8. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including for women's economic empowerment and their right to work and rights at work, and for the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work.

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[10] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9. The Commission takes note of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

10. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and women's economic empowerment, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

11. The Commission recognizes that structural barriers to women's economic empowerment throughout their life cycle in the changing world of work, including as regards their terms and conditions of employment, recruitment, retention, re-entry, promotion and progression to management or senior positions, retirement and dismissal, can be compounded by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in the private and public spheres, all of which can be exacerbated during economic, financial and humanitarian crises, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, during natural and man-made disasters and in refugee and internal displacement settings.

12. The Commission also recognizes the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It stresses the role of men as allies in the realization of women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work and in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

13. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national machineries for the advancement of women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and the important role of civil society in promoting the economic empowerment of women and their full and productive employment and decent work, as well as in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. The Commission strongly condemns violence against women and girls in all its forms in public and private spaces, including harassment in the world of work, including sexual harassment, and sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and femicide, among others, as well as harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and recognizes that these forms of violence are major impediments to the achievement of women's economic empowerment and their social and economic development, often resulting in, inter alia, absenteeism, missed promotions and job losses, thereby hampering women's ability to enter, advance and remain in the labour market and make contributions commensurate with their abilities, and also recognizes that such

violence can impede economic independence and impose direct and indirect short- and long-term costs on society and individuals including, as relevant, lost economic output and the psychological and physical impact thereof, as well as expenses relating to health care, the legal sector, social welfare and specialized services, and further recognizes that women's economic autonomy can expand their options for leaving abusive relationships.

15. The Commission acknowledges that structural barriers to gender equality and gender-based discrimination persist in labour markets worldwide, which impose greater constraints on women than on men in balancing work and family responsibilities and that those structural barriers need to be eliminated in order for women to be able to participate fully in society and equally in the world of work. It also recognizes that progress in achieving women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work has been insufficient, impeding the realization of women's full potential and the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

16. The Commission recognizes that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their family, and that, in particular, women's contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development.

17. The Commission expresses its concern about the continuing significant gender gaps in labour force participation and leadership, wages, income, pensions and social protection, as well as access to economic and productive resources. It also expresses its concern about the structural barriers to women's economic empowerment, including discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes and negative social norms. It is further concerned about unequal working conditions, limited opportunities for career advancement and the growing high incidence of informal and non-standard forms of employment in many regions.

18. The Commission expresses concern about occupational segregation, including its vertical and horizontal dimensions, in all sectors. It recognizes that expanding equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market and for decent work, skills enhancement, participation and leadership in high-level positions for women can address the root causes of occupational segregation in working life and empower women and men to enter professions in the public and private sectors that are dominated by the opposite sex.

19. The Commission recognizes that women constitute the majority of those employed in the health and social sectors, that by working in those sectors they make important contributions to sustainable development, and that investments in those sectors could enhance women's economic empowerment and transform unpaid and informal care roles into decent work by improving their working conditions and wages and by creating opportunities for their economic empowerment through skills enhancement and career advancement.

20. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists, and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. The Commission acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the life cycle, including through social protection systems.

21. The Commission also expresses concern over the persistently low wages earned by women workers, which frequently prevent women from providing decent and dignified living conditions for themselves and their families, and recognizes the important role of trade unions and social dialogue in addressing persistent economic inequalities, including the gender pay gap.

22. The Commission reiterates its concern over the challenge climate change poses to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls, who face inequality and discrimination, are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues, including, inter alia, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recalls the Paris Agreement,[11] adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[12] and reaffirms that countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

23. The Commission recognizes that globalization presents both challenges and opportunities for women's economic empowerment. It also recognizes that there is a need to make broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity, to ensure globalization is fully inclusive and equitable for all, including women and girls, and becomes an increasingly positive force for women's economic empowerment.

24. The Commission reaffirms that the realization of the right to education, as well as access to quality and inclusive education, contributes to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary and tertiary education and emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning opportunities. It recognizes that new technologies, which are changing the structure of labour markets, provide new and different employment opportunities that require women and girls to acquire skills ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology.

25. The Commission recognizes the importance of a conducive external environment in support of national efforts towards the economic empowerment

[11] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

of women, which includes the mobilization of adequate financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, which in turn would enhance the use of enabling technologies to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

26. The Commission also recognizes the worldwide efforts to bridge gender gaps in labour markets. However, the Commission notes that additional progress may be made through temporary special measures to ensure gender equality in the labour force.

27. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increased investment to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including women's economic empowerment, through, inter alia, the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and combating illicit financial flows, so as to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

28. The Commission recognizes that women's enhanced participation in the labour market and their economic independence and access to, and ownership of, economic resources contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, prosperity, competitiveness and the well-being of societies.

29. The Commission also recognizes that women's equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It underlines the importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, as well as girls and boys where applicable, to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for women for full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The Commission acknowledges the positive contribution of migrant women workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

30. The Commission further recognizes that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, including caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and that such uneven distribution of responsibilities is a significant constraint on women's and girls' completion of or progress in education, on women's entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, and can result in gaps in both social protection and pensions. The Commission stresses the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and by prioritizing, inter alia, social protection policies and infrastructure development.

31. The Commission recognizes that the full realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is vital for women's and girls' lives and well-being and for their ability to participate in public and private life, and is crucial for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including their economic empowerment and full and equal participation and leadership in the economy.

32. The Commission recalls its multi-year programme of work for the period 2017-2019, according to which it considered the empowerment of indigenous women as the focus area at its sixty-first session and will consider challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls as the priority theme at its sixty-second session.

33. The Commission recognizes the important role and contribution of rural women and girls to poverty eradication, sustainable development and food security and nutrition, especially in poor and vulnerable households. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the empowerment of rural women and their full, equal and effective participation at all levels of decision-making.

34. The Commission also recognizes that the economic empowerment, inclusion and development of indigenous women, including through the establishment of indigenous-owned businesses, can enable them to improve their social, cultural, civil and political engagement, achieve greater economic independence and build more sustainable and resilient communities, and notes the contribution of indigenous peoples to the broader economy.

35. The Commission further recognizes the important contribution of women and girls of African descent to the development of societies and the promotion of mutual understanding and multiculturalism, recalls the commitment of States to mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent and bearing in mind the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.[11] The Commission also recognizes the importance of the economic empowerment of women of African descent.

36. The Commission recognizes the positive contribution of migrant women and girls, in particular women migrant workers, to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination. It underlines the value and dignity of migrant women's labour in all sectors, including the labour of domestic and care workers.

37. The Commission recalls the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls. It is concerned that many migrant women, particularly those who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work, are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation.

[11] General Assembly resolution 69/16, annex.

38. The Commission expresses its concern about the low labour force participation rate of women with disabilities, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and encounter structural, physical and attitudinal barriers hindering their access to and participation in the workplace on an equal basis with others, and emphasizes the need for measures to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

39. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders and girls' and youth-led organizations, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, and recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

40. The Commission urges governments at all levels and, as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, the private sector, employer organizations and trade unions, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthening normative and legal frameworks

(a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

(b) Consider ratification and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization, namely, the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), in order to contribute to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work;

(c) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and regulatory frameworks that ensure equality and prohibit discrimination against women, in particular in the world of work, including their participation in and access to labour markets, inter alia, laws and frameworks that prohibit discrimination on the

basis of pregnancy, maternity, marital status or age, as well as other multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; take appropriate measures to ensure that women, throughout the life cycle, have equal opportunities for decent work in the public and private sectors, while recognizing that temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women should not be considered discrimination; address the root causes of gender inequality, gender stereotypes and unequal power relations between men and women, and provide, as appropriate, effective means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance and accountability for violations and abuses of human rights;

(d) Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and where applicable girls and boys, to access economic and productive resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land, property and inheritance rights, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including credit, banking and microfinance, as well as equal access to justice and legal assistance in this regard, and ensure women's legal capacity and equal rights with men to conclude contracts;

(e) Eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labour markets and in education and training, supporting women so as to diversify their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology, recognizing the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;

(f) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and regulations that uphold the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in the public and private sectors as a critical measure to eliminate the gender pay gap, provide in this regard effective means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance, and promote the implementation of equal pay policies through, for example, social dialogue, collective bargaining, job evaluations, awareness-raising campaigns, pay transparency and equal pay audits, as well as certification and review of pay practices and increased availability of data and analysis on the gender pay gap;

(g) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and policies to eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against women of all ages in the world of work, in public and private spheres, and provide means of effective redress in cases of non-compliance; ensure safety for women in the workplace; address the multiple consequences of violence and harassment, considering that violence against women and girls is an obstacle to gender equality and women's economic empowerment; encourage awareness-raising activities, including through publicizing the societal and economic costs of such violence; and develop measures to promote re-entry of victims and survivors of violence into the labour market;

(h) Develop and apply gender-sensitive measures for the protection from, prevention and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, including domestic violence, sexual

harassment, trafficking in persons and femicide, among others, so as to promote the realization of women's and girls' economic rights and empowerment and facilitate women's full and productive employment and contribution to the economy, including by facilitating changes in gender stereotypes and negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours, inter alia, through promoting community mobilization, women's economic autonomy and the engagement of men and boys, particularly community leaders; and explore, where possible, measures to respond to the consequences of violence against women, such as employment protection, time off from work, awareness training, psychosocial services and social safety nets for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence, and to foster their economic opportunities;

(i) Strengthen laws and regulatory frameworks that promote the reconciliation and sharing of work and family responsibilities for women and men, including by designing, implementing and promoting family-responsive legislation, policies and services, such as parental and other leave schemes, increased flexibility in working arrangements, support for breastfeeding mothers, development of infrastructure and technology, and the provision of services, including affordable, accessible and quality childcare and care facilities for children and other dependents, and promoting men's equitable responsibilities with respect to household work as fathers and caregivers, which create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(j) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

Strengthening education, training and skills development

(k) Promote and respect women's and girls' right to education at all levels throughout the life cycle, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, by providing universal access to quality education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all and the completion of primary and secondary education and eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promoting financial and digital literacy, ensuring that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and adopting positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

(l) Mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including those relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, eliminate female illiteracy and facilitate effective transition from education or unemployment to work, including through skills development to enable women's and girls' active participation in economic, social and cultural

development and women's active participation in governance and decision-making at all levels, create conditions that facilitate women's full participation and integration in the formal economy and develop gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels, inter alia, to address the root causes of occupational segregation in working life;

(m) Place enhanced emphasis on quality education, including communications and technology education, where available, for girls, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle gender stereotypes, in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment, equitable compensation and decent work;

(n) Ensure that pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, can continue and complete their education, and in this regard, design, implement and, where applicable, revise educational policies to allow them to remain in and return to school, providing them with access to health-care and social services and support, including childcare and breastfeeding facilities and crèches, and to education programmes with accessible locations, flexible schedules and distance education, including e-learning, and bearing in mind the important role and responsibilities of, and challenges faced by, fathers, including young fathers, in this regard;

Implementing economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment

(o) Adopt and implement, and monitor the impact of, gender-responsive macroeconomic, labour and social policies that promote inclusive growth, women's full and productive employment and decent work, protect women's right to work and rights at work and mitigate the effects of economic recession;

(p) Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, also known as the "pink tax", whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys;

(q) Take concrete steps to support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure that all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;

(r) Promote decent paid care and domestic work for women and men in the public and private sectors by providing social protection, safe working conditions and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, thereby facilitating the transition of informal workers, including those engaged in informal paid care and domestic work, into the formal economy;

(s) Improve the security and safety of women on the journey to and from work and the security and safety of women and girls on the journey to and from educational facilities through gender-responsive rural development strategies and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, street lighting, and separate and adequate sanitation facilities, so as to facilitate women's access to places, products, services and economic opportunities;

(t) Optimize fiscal expenditures for gender-responsive social protection and care infrastructure, such as equitable, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education, childcare, elder care, healthcare, and care and social services for persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, which meet the needs of both caregivers and those in need of care, bearing in mind that social protection policies also play a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive growth and gender equality;

(u) Work towards establishing or strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including facilitating the transition from informal to formal work;

(v) Promote legal, administrative and policy measures that ensure women's full and equal access to pensions, through contributory and/or non-contributory schemes that are independent of their employment trajectories, and reduce gender gaps in benefit levels;

(w) Take steps to achieve the full realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by improving access to timely, affordable and quality health systems for women and girls through gender-sensitive national strategies and public health policies and programmes that are comprehensive, affordable and better targeted to addressing their needs, and work to improve access to paid leave and social security benefits, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, illness, disability, ageing and incapacity to work, as well as develop and implement occupational health and safety measures, including appropriate measures to provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them;

(x) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the fulfilment of their economic rights, independence and empowerment;

(y) Recognize the social significance of maternity, paternity, motherhood, fatherhood and the role of parents in the upbringing of children, and promote paid maternity, paternity or parental leave and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, take appropriate steps to ensure they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promote men's awareness and use of such opportunities, as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

(z) Take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, through flexibility in working arrangements without reductions in labour and social protections, through the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities and by challenging gender stereotypes and negative social norms and promoting men's participation and responsibilities as fathers and caregivers;

(aa) Take steps to measure the value of unpaid care and domestic work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, for example through periodic time-use surveys, and include such measurements in the formulation of gender-responsive economic and social policies;

(bb) Fully engage men and boys as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by designing and implementing national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including the equal sharing of responsibilities in caregiving and domestic work, and encourage men and boys to engage fully, as agents and beneficiaries of change, with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in both the public and private spheres, by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms that view women and girls as subordinate to men and boys, as a contribution to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(cc) Promote the entry and re-entry into, and advancement in, labour markets, of all women, including through policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of structural barriers and stereotypes that young women face in the transition from school to work and also to address the challenges faced by women returning from care-related career breaks and by older women, by providing access to technical and vocational skills training, entrepreneurship development, job-matching and career guidance, including towards high-wage and high-growth occupations;

(dd) Promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls with disabilities and the full realization of their human rights and their inclusion in society, and take measures to ensure that women with disabilities have access to decent work on an equal basis with others in the public and private sectors, that labour markets and work environments are open, inclusive

and accessible to persons with disabilities, and take positive measures to increase employment of women with disabilities and eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including recruitment, retention and promotion, and the provision of safe, secure and healthy working conditions, in consultation with relevant national mechanisms and organizations of persons with disabilities;

(ee) Strengthen and support the contributions of rural women and women farmers to the agricultural sector, food security and nutrition and the economic well-being of their families and communities, and to enhancing agricultural and rural development, including small-scale farming, and ensure that they have equal access to agricultural technologies, through investments and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, supported by integrated and multisectoral policies that improve productive capacity and incomes and strengthen their resilience, and address the existing gaps in and barriers to trading their agricultural products in local, regional and international markets;

(ff) Support remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, by taking measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

(gg) Take measures to promote the economic empowerment of indigenous women, including by ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and meaningful participation in the economy by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, and promote their participation in relevant decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge and noting the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[14] for indigenous women and girls;

(hh) Develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in line with international and regional instruments, to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, with the aim of strengthening their economic empowerment, inter alia, through the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, including in the context of a just transition of the workforce;

(ii) Continue developing and enhancing standards and methodologies at the national and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics and data on the formal and informal economy, inter alia, on women's poverty, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making, so as to measure progress for women's economic

[14] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

empowerment in the changing world of work, by strengthening national statistical capacity, including by enhancing the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance for enabling developing countries to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(jj) Promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[15] pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

(kk) Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy, more efficient tax collection and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved, and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to accelerate the achievement of women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(ll) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(mm) Strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invite all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Addressing the growing informality of work and mobility of women workers

(nn) Promote the transition to formal employment for women employed in informal paid work, home-based work and in micro-, small and medium-

[15] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

sized enterprises, as well as work in the agricultural sector and own-account and part-time work, by extending social protection and wages that allow for an adequate standard of living, and take measures to address unsafe and unhealthy working conditions that can characterize work in the informal economy by promoting occupational safety and health protection to workers in the informal economy;

(oo) Adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to promote the economic empowerment of women migrant workers in all sectors and protect their human rights, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

(pp) Recognize the significant contribution and leadership of women in migrant communities and take appropriate steps to ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and also recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for migrant workers and those in precarious employment, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility, including circular migration, in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;[16]

(qq) Devise, strengthen and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that integrate a human rights and sustainable development perspective, and enforce, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in a gender- and age-sensitive manner, to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, take measures to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to modern slavery and sexual exploitation, and enhance international cooperation, inter alia, to counter, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

Managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment

(rr) Support women's access, throughout their life cycle, to skills development and decent work in new and emerging fields, by expanding the scope of education and training opportunities in, inter alia, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communications technology and digital fluency, and enhance women's and, as appropriate, girls' participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

(ss) Strengthen science and technology education policies and curricula, so that they are relevant to the needs of and benefit women and girls, encourage investment and research in sustainable technology, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

[16] General Assembly resolution 71/1.

Strengthening women's collective voice, leadership and decision-making

(tt) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation and access to leadership and high level positions, including through temporary special measures, as appropriate, in economic decision-making structures and institutions at all levels, as well as in enterprises, corporate boards and trade unions;

(uu) Ensure that women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, women affected by natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies and internally displaced women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes and that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in response and recovery strategies;

(vv) Recognize that the empowerment of and investment in women and girls, which is critical for economic growth and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of women in decision-making, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognize further that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through girls' organizations with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community;

(ww) Protect and promote the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and collective bargaining so as to enable all women workers to organize and join unions, cooperatives and business associations, while recognizing that those legal entities are created, modified and dissolved in accordance with national law and taking into account each State's international legal obligations;

(xx) Support tripartite collaboration among Governments, employers and women workers and their organizations, including trade unions or other representative organizations, to prevent and remove barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the world of work;

(yy) Encourage and support women's participation and leadership in trade unions, workers' organizations and employers' organizations, and urge all leaders of such organizations to effectively represent the interests of all women workers;

(zz) Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors and increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations so that they can fully contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(aaa) Recognize the important role the media can play in the achievement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment, including through non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive coverage and by eliminating gender stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, and

encourage training for those who work in the media and the development and strengthening of self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non-stereotypical portrayals of women and girls, which contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of discrimination against and exploitation of women and girls;

Strengthening the role of the private sector in women's economic empowerment

(bbb) Promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector that acts in line with, among others, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[17] the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, labour, environmental and health standards, and the Women's Empowerment Principles established by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Global Compact, in order to promote the economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(ccc) Encourage workplace environments and institutional practices that value all workers and offer them equal opportunities to reach their full potential, including through ensuring that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are considered a necessary dimension of human resources management, in particular for the modernization of scientific and technological organizations and institutions in both the public and private sectors;

(ddd) Encourage and facilitate women's entrepreneurship, including by improving access to financing and investment opportunities, tools of trade, business development and training, in order to increase the share of trade and procurement from women's enterprises, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and self-help groups in both the public and private sectors;

(eee) Work with the private sector to take into account a gender perspective while undertaking value chain analyses to inform the design and implementation of policies and programmes that promote and protect women's right to work and rights at work in global value chains.

41. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

42. The Commission calls upon Governments to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender

[17] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

43. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution 70/163 of 17 December 2015 and encourages the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-second session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles),[18] where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

44. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, to support States, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

45. The Commission calls upon UN-Women to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Governments and national women's machineries, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda towards women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World

[18] General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex.

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] E/CN.6/2017/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Conference on Women,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2016/4 of 2 June 2016 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, shortages of electricity and fuel, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian disaster continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Expressing grave concern about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence over the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life, including among girls and women, as a result of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupying forces,

Condemning the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[6] and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Gravely concerned, in particular, by the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip, including those resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied

[6] A/HRC/29/52.

Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, consistent with the provisions and obligations under international humanitarian law,

Stressing also the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing grave concern that Palestinian women and girls continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, and noting that women and girls also face gender-specific challenges, including inadequate access to medical care, risks associated with pregnancy and giving birth in prison and sexual harassment,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[7] and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions,

[7] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made on 12 October 2014 at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[11] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[9] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session a report, including information provided by the Economic

[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

      (i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

      (ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General on the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies

* For the discussion, see chaps. VI and VII.

and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 61/1
Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace[a]

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[5]

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[6] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[7] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[8] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[9] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] and the outcomes of their review conferences,

Recalling the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10]

Recognizing that violence against women encompasses, inter alia, sexual harassment in the workplace,

Recognizing also that sexual harassment may amount to discrimination on the basis of sex, reflects and reinforces discriminatory social attitudes and gender stereotypes, is an abuse of human rights and an affront to a worker's dignity and prevents women from making a contribution commensurate with their abilities,

Recognizing further that sexual harassment may be committed by both men and women, against both men and women, at any level of a workplace,

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[a] For the discussion see chap. III.
[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[4] Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and General Assembly resolution 66/138, annex.
[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap III.
[6] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[10] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

bearing in mind that in most situations women and girls are the victims of sexual harassment,

Acknowledging that sexual harassment may be committed against girls working in accordance with national legislation and Member States' relevant obligations under international law, as well as girls working under other circumstances, while condemning child labour in all its forms and reaffirming Member States' obligations to protect girls in accordance with international law,

Acknowledging also that sexual harassment in the workplace may occur both in and outside of a formal or informal workplace and can take various forms,

Concerned about the large number of women worldwide who have reported being sexually harassed in their workplace, and concerned also that, owing to underreporting, the actual number may be much greater,

Underscoring that often shame, stigma, lack of information and awareness, fear of reprisals and negative economic consequences, such as, inter alia, loss of livelihood or reduced household income, prevent many women and, as applicable, girls from reporting or acting as witnesses and from seeking redress and justice in cases of sexual harassment in the workplace,

Bearing in mind that sexual harassment in the workplace and the resulting hostile working environment have a negative impact on women in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities at work, including, inter alia, by hindering their ability to remain and advance in the workplace,

Bearing in mind also that sexual harassment in the workplace may have negative physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families,

Reaffirming that women play a vital role as agents of development in society, and recognizing, in this context, that sexual harassment in the workplace impedes the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and constrains their ability to positively contribute to development,

Stressing the need to fully engage men and boys as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace,

Stressing also that employers have the primary responsibility to take measures to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and to facilitate effective action after sexual harassment has occurred by holding perpetrators to account and providing access to remedies and protection for the victims, bearing in mind that victims of sexual harassment may be subject to further discrimination or reprisals,

Stressing further that Member States have the obligation to promote, protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and should exercise due diligence by taking measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the

perpetrators of sexual harassment in the workplace, and provide for effective access to appropriate remedies for victims,

Highlighting the crucial role that educational and awareness-raising programmes, policies and legislation play in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment against women and girls,

Emphasizing that the lack of, or inadequate, documentation and research on sexual harassment against women and girls, including in and outside of the workplace, impedes efforts to design specific measures, including, where appropriate, policies and legislation to prevent and eliminate this form of violence,

1. *Condemns* sexual harassment in all its forms, especially against women and girls, including in the workplace, and emphasizes the need to take all necessary measures to prevent and eliminate it;

2. *Encourages* Member States to:

(a) Pursue, by effective means, a policy of preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace, with an emphasis on effective legal, preventive and protective measures for women who are victims of sexual harassment in the workplace or who are at risk of sexual harassment in the workplace;

(b) Take all measures necessary to raise awareness regarding the rights of victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and the means of accessing redress and justice, and to facilitate reporting by victims and witnesses;

(c) Take measures to educate children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect and that sexual harassment is an abuse of human rights and offends the dignity of all persons;

(d) Cooperate with civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations, and unions, in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment, including in the workplace;

(e) Take measures to encourage employers to take steps to prevent and address sexual harassment by their employees in and outside of the workplace;

(f) Promote research and collect and analyse data and statistics, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant characteristics, in order to develop, review and implement policies and programmes at all levels that contribute to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report, within existing resources, on preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace to the Commission on the Status of Women for its review of the theme of "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work", using information provided by Member States, United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, including information on the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace, its causes and effects, inter alia, the impact on women's participation in the workforce, as well as good practices and recommendations.

Decision 61/101
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women*

At its 12th and 14th meetings, on 22 and 24 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents and to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the relevant Chair's summaries:

Under agenda item 3

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity;[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[3]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;[4]

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions;[5]

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[6]

Chair's summary of the high-level interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;[7]

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on the focus area: empowerment of indigenous women;[8]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on gender pay gaps in the public and private sectors: how can equal pay for work of equal value be achieved in the changing world of work?;[9]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on technology changing the world of work: how can technology and innovation be harnessed to accelerate women's economic empowerment?;[10]

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* For the discussion, see chaps. III and V.
[1] E/CN.6/2017/2.
[2] E/CN.6/2017/3.
[3] E/CN.6/2017/4.
[4] A/HRC/35/3-E/CN.6/2017/7.
[5] A/71/38.
[6] E/CN.6/2017/10.
[7] E/CN.6/2017/11.
[8] E/CN.6/2017/12.
[9] E/CN.6/2017/13.
[10] E/CN.6/2017/14.

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on informal and non-standard work: what policies can effectively support women's economic empowerment?;[11]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on full and productive employment and decent work for all: how can Sustainable Development Goal 8 be realized for women by 2030?;[12]

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on accelerating implementation of commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;[13]

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel discussion on the global care economy in the context of the changing world of work;[14]

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel discussion on enhancing the availability and use of data and gender-related statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[15]

Chair's summary of the series of interactive dialogues on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;[16]

Under agenda item 5

Letter dated 15 November 2016 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women;[17]

Note by the Secretariat on the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.[18]

[11] E/CN.6/2017/15.
[12] E/CN.6/2017/20.
[13] E/CN.6/2017/18.
[14] E/CN.6/2017/17.
[15] E/CN.6/2017/19.
[16] E/CN.6/2017/16.
[17] E/CN.6/2017/8.
[18] E/CN.6/2017/9.

Chapter II
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 13 March. It had before it its annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2017/1 and Add.1/Rev.2).

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.

Chapter III

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

7. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 14th meetings, on 13, from 15 to 17 and from 20 to 24 March 2017. It held a general discussion on the item at its 2nd, 4th to 7th and 11th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity (E/CN.6/2017/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (E/CN.6/2017/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2017/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work" (E/CN.6/2017/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2017/6);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/35/3-E/CN.6/2017/7);

(h) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (A/71/38);

(k) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2017/10);

(l) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2017/NGO/3-131 and E/CN.6/2017/NGO/220-221).

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 March, the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2017 session, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe), and the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, Peter Thompson (Fiji), addressed the Commission.

9. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Chair of the

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department of the International Labour Organization (on behalf of the Director General of the International Labour Organization).

10. Also at the same meeting, three youth representatives made a joint statement.

11. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), El Salvador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Belgium (on behalf of the Group of Friends on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)[19] and Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community).

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Malta (on behalf of the European Union), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Swaziland (on behalf of the Southern African Development Cooperation), Slovenia (on behalf of the Human Security Network)[20] and Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

13. At the 4th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Paraguay, Uganda, Kenya, Spain, Liberia, the Congo, Ghana and Malawi.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), the Niger, Canada, Morocco, Mozambique, Finland, South Africa, Luxembourg, the Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Zambia, Indonesia, Denmark, Tunisia, Australia, Iceland, Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Namibia, the Bahamas, Romania, Thailand, Guinea, Turkey, Madagascar, Jordan, Mali, Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Peru, the Sudan, Angola, Costa Rica, Rwanda, Czechia, Kiribati, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Nepal, Cambodia, Nauru and Fiji.

15. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

16. At the 5th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Lesotho, Nigeria, Uruguay, Germany, Norway, Pakistan and Brazil.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Haiti, Estonia, Austria, Ukraine, Honduras, Lithuania, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Greece, Timor-Leste, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, Argentina, Chad and Chile.

18. Also at the same meeting, the Chair made a statement and suspended the meeting.

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[19] The Group of Friends on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is composed of Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Italy, Mongolia, Montenegro, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay.

[20] The Human Security Network is composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, South Africa (as an observer), Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand.

19. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso, Egypt, the United Republic of Tanzania, Eritrea, Kuwait, Mongolia and Trinidad and Tobago.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Gambia, Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Uzbekistan, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Hungary, Andorra, Benin, Swaziland and Grenada.

21. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Netherlands made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

22. At the 6th meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Friends for Gender Parity),[21] Kazakhstan, Albania, El Salvador, Qatar, Colombia, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Tajikistan and the Republic of Korea.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Latvia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States of America, Togo, South Sudan, Senegal, Turkmenistan, Seychelles, Slovakia, the Marshall Islands, Iraq, Algeria, Lebanon, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Viet Nam, Djibouti, Myanmar, Tonga, Samoa, Kyrgyzstan, Solomon Islands, Burundi, Sweden, Azerbaijan and Suriname.

24. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

25. At the 7th meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, the Russian Federation, India, Liechtenstein and Israel.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Cabo Verde, Croatia, the United Arab Emirates, Tuvalu, Libya, China, Saudi Arabia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gabon and Mauritania.

27. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Council of Europe, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the League of Arab States, the Commonwealth, the Economic Community of West African States and the International Development Law Organization.

28. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the

[21] The Group of Friends for Gender Parity is composed of Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (also on behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries; Plan International; World Federalist Movement; Sveriges Kvinnolobby; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; CHIRAPAQ — Centro de Culturas Indigenas del Perú; Salvation Army; and Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women.

30. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Republic of Korea and Japan, as well as the observers for Turkey, Ukraine and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

31. At the 11th meeting, on 20 March, a statement was made by the representative of Bangladesh.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Cameroon and Singapore.

33. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Sovereign Order of Malta and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

34. Also at the 11th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Food Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the International Trade Centre.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: The Grail; Young Women's Christian Association; Public Services International; Canadian Federation of University Women; Amnesty International; Indigenous Information Network; Fundacion BBVA para las Microfinanzas; Ilitha Labantu; International Association of Democratic Lawyers; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Women's Health Coalition; International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific; Hunger Project; Widows for Peace through Democracy; Coalition against Trafficking in Women; International Federation of Medical Students Associations; Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund; Save the Children International; ACT Alliance — Action by Churches Together; and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights.

A. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Ministerial segment

Interactive dialogue on accelerating implementation of commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*

36. At its 5th meeting, on 15 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on accelerating implementation of commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Germany).

37. Statements were made by the following invited speakers: Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Dalia Leinarte; representative of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Malawi, Jesse Kabwila; journalist and presenter at France 24 and host of the programme "51 Percent", Annette Young; Special Envoy of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, Florence Simbiri Jaoko; Chairperson of the National Human Rights Institution of Afghanistan, Sima Samar; Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar); Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Tete Antonio; Chief Counsellor for Social Issues and Director, Gender Team, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Michaela S. Bergman; High Counselor for Gender Equality of Colombia, Martha Ordoñez (on behalf of the President of the National Gender Commission of the Judicial Branch of Colombia, Margarita Cabello Blanco); Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović; member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, Frances Raday; representative of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Soeleste Nabulivou; Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Susan O'Malley; and Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Shamika Sirimanne.

38. The representatives of Brazil and Uganda took part in the ensuing dialogue.

39. The observers for Argentina, Afghanistan, Slovenia, China and the Niger also took part in the dialogue.

40. The Vice-Chair (Germany) made a statement and suspended the meeting.

41. The representatives of Switzerland, Germany, Qatar and Colombia, as well as the observers for Iraq, South Africa, Mali and the Philippines, participated in the resumed dialogue.

42. The Vice-Chair (Germany) made a statement.

* See the Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue (E/CN.6/2017/CRP.1).

B. Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work*

1. Ministerial segment
Ministerial round tables held in parallel

43. At its 3rd meeting, on 13 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held in parallel four ministerial round-table meetings on the priority theme, "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work".

Round table A
Gender pay gaps in the public and private sectors: how can equal pay for work of equal value be achieved in the changing world of work?

44. Ministerial round table A was chaired by the Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Elke Ferner, who made an opening statement.

45. The representatives of Belgium, Norway, Paraguay, Brazil, Switzerland, Mongolia, Spain, the Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan and the observers for Jordan, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Tunisia, Peru, Luxembourg, Morocco, South Africa, Canada, Poland, Greece, Lithuania, the Sudan and Portugal took part in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

46. The Chair of round table A made a statement.

Round table B
Technology changing the world of work: how can technology and innovation be harnessed to accelerate women's economic empowerment?

47. Ministerial round table B was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Valentin Rybakov, who made an opening statement.

48. The representatives of Japan and Burkina Faso and the observers for Australia, Mali, Nepal, Czechia, Botswana, Mauritius, Zambia, the Niger, Argentina, Italy, Estonia, South Africa, China and the United Arab Emirates participated in the interactive dialogue.

49. The Assistant Secretary-General Deputy Executive Director of the Policy and Programme Bureau of UN-Women and the Chair of round table B made closing statements.

Round table C
Informal and non-standard work: what policies can effectively support women's economic empowerment?

50. Ministerial round table C was chaired by the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Motome Takizawa, who made an opening statement.

51. The representatives of Belarus, Eritrea, Guatemala, Kuwait, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Korea and the observers for Namibia,

* See the Chair's summaries of the ministerial round tables (E/CN.6/2017/13-15 and 20), the high-level interactive dialogue (E/CN.6/2017/11) and the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2017/17).

Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Mozambique, Hungary, Angola, Chile, the Congo, Romania, Madagascar and El Salvador participated in the interactive dialogue, as did the observer for the State of Palestine.

52. The Chair of round table C and the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Bureau of UN-Women made statements.

Round table D
Full and productive employment and decent work for all: how can Sustainable Development Goal 8 be realized for women by 2030?

53. Ministerial round table D was chaired by the President of the National Council for Women of Egypt, Maya Morsy, who made an opening statement.

54. The representatives of the Russian Federation, Egypt, Guatemala and Uganda, as well as the observers for Costa Rica, Sweden, Ukraine, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Georgia, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, the Philippines, Ireland, Afghanistan, South Africa, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Cuba, participated in the interactive dialogue.

55. The observer for the European Union also intervened.

56. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director of the Policy and Programme Bureau of UN-Women made a closing statement.

2. Ministerial segment
High-level interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

57. At its 4th meeting, on 15 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held a high-level dialogue among ministers on building alliances to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the changing world of work, which was chaired and moderated by the Chair of the Commission.

58. The representatives of Ghana, Uganda, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Japan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mongolia and Eritrea and the observers for New Zealand, Australia, Hungary, Ukraine, China, Turkey, Iraq, the Niger, Finland, the Dominican Republic, Chile and the Philippines participated in the interactive dialogue, as did the representative of the International Labour Organization.

59. The invited speakers, representing trade unions, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, also participated.

60. The Chair made a statement in which he summarized the highlights of the dialogue.

3. Panel discussion on the global care economy in the context of the changing world of work

61. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the global care economy in the context of the changing world of work, which was

chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

62. Presentations were made by the following panellists: emeritus professor, Department of Sociology, Essex University, Diane Elson (on behalf of emeritus professor of economics at Open University, Susan Himmelweit); Adviser to the Director of the National Care Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, Patricia Cossani; professor of sociology and public policy and Canada Research Chair, Global Social Policy, University of Toronto, Ito Peng; senior lecturer, Centre for Population Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Naomi Wekwete; General Secretary, National Union of Domestic Employees and co-founder of the Service Workers Centre Cooperative Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Ida Le Blanc; Senior Regional Specialist on Gender Equality, International Labour Organization Regional Office for the Arab States, Emanuela Pozzan (on behalf of Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department of the International Labour Organization, Manuela Tomei).

63. The representatives of Switzerland and Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the observers for Italy and the Philippines participated in the discussion, as did the observer for the European Union.

64. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Canadian Labour Congress; HelpAge International; and Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

C. Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*

1. Ministerial segment

Presentations

65. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 16 and 17 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held a series of interactive dialogues at which presentations were made on the review theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls".

66. At the 7th meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Bureau of UN-Women made an introductory statement.

67. At the 8th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Japan) made opening remarks.

Presentations by Mexico, Liberia, Spain, Slovakia and the United Republic of Tanzania

68. At the 7th meeting, a presentation was made by the President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico, Lorena Cruz, subsequent to which she responded to

* See the Chair's summaries of the series of the interactive dialogues at which the presentations were made (E/CN.6/2017/16) and of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2017/19).

comments and questions from the representative of Germany and the observer for Argentina.

69. At the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Liberia, Julia Duncan-Cassell, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representative of Norway and the observer for Canada.

70. Also at the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Assistant Deputy Director General of the Subdirectorate General for International Relations of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain, Mercedes Alicia Fernández, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representative of Uruguay and the observer for Portugal.

71. Also at the 7th meeting, a presentation was made by the United Nations Coordinator at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovakia, Ľubica Rozborová, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representative of Albania and the observer for Poland.

72. At the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hamisi Kigwangalla, subsequent to which he responded to comments and questions from the observer for Namibia.

Presentations by Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Bulgaria and Indonesia

73. At the 8th meeting, a presentation was made by the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties of Malta, Helena Dalli, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the observers for Australia and Canada.

74. At the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia, Mungunchimeg Sanjaa, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Switzerland and Japan.

75. Also at the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development of Morocco, Bassima Hakkaoui, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representative of Belgium.

76. Also at the 8th meeting, a presentation was made by the Minister for Women of the Dominican Republic, Janet Camilo, subsequent to which she responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Germany and the Republic of Korea.

77. At the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations, Georgi Panayotov, subsequent to which he responded to comments and questions from the observer for Austria and the representative of Kazakhstan.

78. Also at the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Deputy Minister for Human Development, Society and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of National

Development Planning of Indonesia, Subandi Sardjoko, subsequent to which he responded to comments and questions from the observer for Morocco and the representative of Colombia.

2. Panel discussion on enhancing availability and use of data and gender-related statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

79. At its 10th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on enhancing availability and use of data and gender-related statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Germany).

80. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Head of Research, National Statistical Institute of Italy, Linda Laura Sabbadini; Social Affairs Officer, Gender Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Lucia Scuro; President, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Aija Zigure; Executive Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Sian Philips (on behalf of the Assistant Secretary and Principal Sector Specialist of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Sarah Goulding); and Deputy Executive Director, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Imelda Musana (on behalf of the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Affairs of Uganda, Janat Mukwaya).

81. During the ensuing discussion, the panellists and a representative of UN-Women responded to the comments and questions posed by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Egypt, Switzerland, Brazil and Pakistan.

82. The observers for Morocco, Angola, Ethiopia, Cuba, Mexico, Senegal, the Philippines, Iraq and Indonesia took part in the discussion.

83. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing; Plan International; United Cities and Local Governments; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas; Widows for Peace through Democracy; Human Rights Advocates; Soroptimist International; Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights; and IPAS.

84. The Vice-Chair (Germany) made a statement.

D. Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women*

1. Ministerial segment
Interactive dialogue on the focus area: empowerment of indigenous women

85. At its 6th meeting, on 16 March, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on the focus area, "Empowerment of indigenous women".

* See the Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue (E/CN.6/2017/12).

86. Statements were made by the following invited speakers: member and Chair-designate for March 2017 (Russian Federation) of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Aysa Mukabenova; member of the Executive Council, Sami Parliament (Norway), Mariann Wollmann Magga; political and social leader (Guatemala), Otilia Lux de Coti; Regional Director for the Americas, United Nations Population Fund, Esteban Caballero; Executive Director and founder, Il'laramatak Community Concerns (Kenya), Agnes Leina; Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities Global Network (Nepal), Pratima Gurung; Director of the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Khalida Bouzar; Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Philippines), Victoria Tauli-Corpuz; and Executive Director, International Indigenous Women's Forum (Peru), Tarcila Rivera Zea.

87. The representatives of Uganda, Guatemala, Brazil and the Congo took part in the ensuing discussion.

88. The observer for the European Union, as well as the representatives of the International Labour Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, also took part in the discussion.

89. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: Madre; Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú; Asociación Civil Hecho por Nosotros; Native Women's Association of Canada; and Pacific Disability Forum.

90. The Chair of the Commission made a statement.

E. Action taken by the Commission

1. Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace

91. At the 12th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Israel, also on behalf of El Salvador, Georgia, Kenya, Panama, Ukraine, the United States and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace" (E/CN.6/2017/L.4) and announced that Belarus and Japan had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

92. At the 13th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

93. At the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement and announced that Australia, Canada, Colombia, Greece, Jamaica, Palau, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Suriname had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, New Zealand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

94. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 61/1).

95. Before the adoption, a statement was made by the observer for the United States.

96. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Israel, as well as by the observer for Oman (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

2. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

97. At the 12th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2017/L.3).

98. At the 13th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

99. At the same meeting, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

100. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 30 to 1, with 12 abstentions, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

101. After the vote, a statement was made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

3. Agreed conclusions on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

102. At the 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, as contained in an informal paper submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations and subsequently issued as E/CN.6/2017/L.5.

103. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft agreed conclusions contained no programme budget implications.

104. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 68/1 and 70/1 and Council resolution 2015/6 (see chap. I, sect. A).

105. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

106. The observers for Saint Lucia (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Yemen (also on behalf of Libya, Nigeria and the Sudan), Mauritania, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Argentina (also on behalf of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay), Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway), the United States, France (also on behalf Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and Poland made statements.

107. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

4. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

108. At its 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it under the agenda item (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 61/101).

Chapter IV
Communications concerning the status of women

109. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 12th (closed) meeting, on 22 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 111 below);[22]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2017/R.1 and Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission
Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

110. At its 12th (closed) meeting, on 22 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.

111. At the same (closed) meeting, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it into the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and the replies by Governments thereon (E/CN.6/2017/R.1 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, no such communications having been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 28 confidential communications, addressed to 23 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 17 replies from 12 Governments.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

[22] The report was also circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2017/R.2.

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as had communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, gang rape, sexual abuse, including sexual abuse of minors, and sexual harassment, including in the workplace, committed by private individuals and military and law enforcement personnel;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including targeted killings of women, domestic violence, physical assault, extortion, including in the workplace, harmful practices, such as child and forced marriage, abduction for the purpose of marriage, virginity testing, forced sterilization, forced abortion and trafficking in persons, including for forced prostitution;

(c) Abuse of power, excessive use of force, intimidation and attacks, including death threats, by law enforcement officials, military personnel and employees of private security firms, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, refusal to register complaints and to issue medical certificates, arbitrary arrest and detention and failure to grant a fair trial and prevent impunity;

(d) Pressure exerted on victims of violence and their families and their fear of reporting cases owing to anticipated stigma and reprisals from perpetrators, the community and employers, often preventing them from filing complaints;

(e) Inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems and starvation, degrading treatment and torture of and physical and sexual violence against those women;

(f) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination, harassment, degrading treatment and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, arrest on minor offences, impunity and forced integration, some of which target vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as indigenous women, orphaned girls, single mothers and women belonging to minorities, and that result in, among other things, immolation;

(g) Killings, intimidation, harassment, such as sexual harassment and judicial harassment, including delay of proceedings and impunity, travel bans

and detention, including arbitrary and incommunicado detention, of and violence and sexual violence against women human rights defenders as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(h) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, of women and girls, including in detention, and restricted access to health-care services;

(i) Discrimination against women resulting in the loss of child custody to abusive fathers and forced abandonment of children;

(j) Inadequate institutions, and implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights that is ineffective or lacking;

(k) Legislation, policies and/or stereotypical practices and attitudes that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of religion and belief, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(iii) Family, marriage and divorce;

(iv) Employment, including employment opportunities, work-life balance, the pay gap and access to labour markets, including entrepreneurship;

(v) Education and career preparation;

(vi) Health care;

(vii) Access to justice;

(viii) Punishment for rape and abduction;

(l) Failure by States to adequately:

(i) Combat stereotypes of women and exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls;

(ii) Investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators adequately and in a timely manner, resulting in impunity;

(iii) Provide protection and support for victims;

(iv) Ensure access to justice;

(v) Ensure equal opportunities for women and girls.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and its consideration of the question of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including torture, targeted killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, such as sexual harassment and sexual abuse of minors, as well as harassment and detention of women human rights defenders;

(b) Harmful practices, including child and forced marriage, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of all fundamental rights;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and discrimination against women in access to health care;

(d) The persistence of gender stereotypes, including in laws, policies and practices;

(e) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women or had the effect of discriminating against women, ineffective or insufficient implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women, and lack of such laws, notwithstanding States' international obligations and commitments;

(f) Discrimination and violence against vulnerable and marginalized groups of women and girls;

(g) Persisting impunity and abuse of power, including where discrimination and violence against women, including sexual violence, were perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(h) The failure by States to adequately exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with regard to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Expressing concern about the continuing gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that Governments had explained their positions, carried out investigations into the allegations made and/or taken measures, such as improving the enforcement of existing legislation, introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist women, including women victims of violence, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

112. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 12th meeting, on 22 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 15 November 2016 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2017/8);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/CN.6/2017/9).

113. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of the documents (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 61/101).

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission

114. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 24 March. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2017/L.2).

115. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-second session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session

116. At the 14th meeting, on 24 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Bosnia and Herzegovina) introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-first session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2017/L.1.

117. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixty-first session and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its finalization.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

118. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixty-first session at United Nations Headquarters on 24 March 2016 and from 13 to 24 March 2017. The Commission held 14 meetings (1st to 14th). The Commission did not convene on 14 March 2017 owing to the closure of the United Nations Headquarters campus due to inclement weather.

B. Attendance

119. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

120. The following officers were elected at the 1st meeting of the sixtieth session, on 20 March 2015, and at the 1st meeting of the sixty-first session, on 24 March 2016, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-first session:

Chair:

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:

Fatmaalzahraa Hassan Abdelaziz Abdelkawy (Egypt)
Jun Saito (Japan)
Andreas Glossner (Germany)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

D. Agenda and organization of work

121. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 March 2017, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

122. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2017/L.Add.1/Rev.2.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

123. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Council resolution 2015/6, the Commission appointed, at the 1st meeting of its sixty-first session, on 24 March 2016, Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia and Uruguay as members of the Working Group on Communications for the sixty-first session of the Commission. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 March 2017, the Commission appointed Belgium as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-first session of the Commission.

F. Documentation

124. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-first session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017/official-documents.

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